

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 3-5 and 7 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-2 and 6 have been cancelled.

Claims 3 and 4 were objected to for informalities. These informalities have been corrected.

Claims 3-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by JP 58-60977. It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are now patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant's invention, as recited by claim 3, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... the **greatest length** of the common case member **being shorter in length** in said predetermined direction than said predetermined length ...

... an additional case member, **the greatest length** of the additional case member **being longer in length** in said predetermined direction than said predetermined length case ... (Emphasis added).

Basis for this amendment may be found, for example, at Fig. 3 of the originally filed application. No new matter has been added.

Applicant has attached a copy of Applicant's Fig. 3 with markings (Exhibit A) to assist with the explanation. Exhibit A is being used for illustrative purposes only. The electronic equipment 10 in Fig. 3 includes a double length case 20. The double length case 20 has an overall length that is substantially twice as long as a predetermined length 10a. The double length case 20 includes a common case member 21 (bottom case cover) and an additional case member 22 (intermediate case cover).

Case member 21 and additional case member 22 have varying lengths in the direction of arrow 11. For example, additional case member's length changes from a smaller length to its greatest length L_{22} as it wraps around additional side engaging portion 22a. At its greatest length L_{22} , additional case member 22 is longer than standard length 10a. That is, $L_{22} > L_{10a}$. Thus, claim 3 has been amended to recite "... the **greatest length** of the common case member

being shorter in length in said predetermined direction than said predetermined length ...”
Common case member’s length also changes from a smaller length to its greatest length L_{21} as it wraps around common side engaging portion 21a. At its greatest length L_{21} , common case member 21 is shorter than standard length 10a. That is, $L_{21} < L_{10a}$. Thus, claim 3 has been amended to recite “... an additional case member, **the greatest length** of the additional case member **being longer in length** in said predetermined direction than said predetermined length case ...”

Fig. 1 of JP 58-60977 discloses three cases (1, 17 and 19). Each of the cases, however, have the same length. That is, none of the cases in Fig. 1 have a length shorter or longer than a predetermined length. Accordingly, JP 58-60977 does not disclose or suggest “... the **greatest length** of the common case member **being shorter in length** in said predetermined direction than said predetermined length ...” and “... an additional case member, **the greatest length** of the additional case member **being longer in length** in said predetermined direction than said predetermined length case,” as recited in claim 3.

Thus, claim 3 is allowable over the art of record.

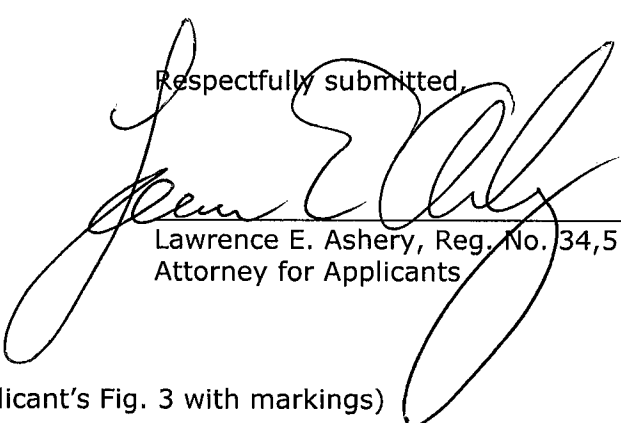
Claim 4, while not identical to claim 3, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 3. Thus, claim 4 is also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 3. Claims 5 and 7 depend from claim 4. Accordingly, claims 5 and 7 are also allowable over the art of record.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this Application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Exhibit A (copy of Applicant's Fig. 3 with markings)

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EXHIBIT A (NOT FOR FILING)

FIG. 3

